

For Immediate Release

**Red Cross emergency shelter remains open Thursday night**

*As power is restored, need for emergency shelter declines*

**February 3, 2011** — As the sun returns to Central Ohio, many residents are finding their power restored and schools back in session. For those who remain without power because of the ice and severe winds, American Red Cross of Greater Columbus volunteers will continue to welcome them out of the cold tonight at the shelter located in the fellowship annex “Warehouse 839” of the Hilliard United Methodist Church. The shelter provided refuge for one local resident last night and will likely not be needed into the weekend.

Those in need of free transportation to this emergency shelter can call Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) at 614-794-0213, where they will be connected with a Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) representative, according to Michael R. Pannell, director of FCEM&HS.

People should take blankets and pillows, medication for 24 hours, point of contact numbers for relatives and friends as well as photo identification with them to the shelter. These emergency shelters are not suitable for individuals with special medical needs.

The emergency shelter at the Hilliard United Methodist Church is located inside the church annex called “Warehouse 839” that faces Main St. The church address is 5445 Scioto Darby Rd., Hilliard 43026

Delaware County residents needing shelter or other assistance should call the Red Cross at 740-362-2021.

**About the American Red Cross:**

*You can help people affected by disasters like severe winter weather, as well as countless crises at home and around the world, by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance in response to disasters. Visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Contributions may also be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.*

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